

Neutrals.

1. Mr. K. Ayyappan
2. " M. A. Chakko
3. " A. Eachara Menon
4. " E. Ikkanda Warriar
5. " P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri
6. " K. T. Mathew
7. " Paul Mampilly
8. Dr. A. R. Menon
9. Mrs. Swaris
10. Mr. K. P. Vallon

Opening of Veterinary Dispensary in the village of Kizhakkummuri.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—Sir, I move the following resolution.

"That this Council recommends to the Government that a Veterinary Dispensary be opened at any suitable centre in the village of Kizhakkummuri in the Mukundapuram Taluk".

At the very outset I might say that by mentioning the village Kizhakkummuri my idea is if it is taken along with the antecedents of the case that a dispensary should be located at any suitable centre in one of the two villages, Kizhakkummuri and Thekkummuri which are served by the same village office. Sometime ago there was a petition signed by a very large number of people from these two villages for the establishment of a veterinary dispensary at any suitable centre in any of these villages. Government in reply said that they had a scheme of itinerary veterinary inspectors or something of that kind and when that scheme materialised grievances of the petitioners would be redressed. I fail to see how the needs of these villages which are so important and needs which are so very large could be met by the appointment of a couple of itinerary inspectors for the whole of the State. Very often the necessary succour will not reach them in time of need. It would reach them only long after the need is over and therefore it would be no remedy at all. At present the nearest veterinary dispensary is the one at Irinjalakuda, many miles away. Therefore in pleading for a veterinary dispensary there I first of all refer to a few figures just to show the importance and magnitude of the agricultural interest of these two villages. The two villages comprise an area of 5,790 acres of which the niloms come to 1,216 acres and the parambas to some 3,748 acres. Now though the 3,748 acres are registered as parambas we may take it that at least 25 per cent of this area is brought under paddy cultivation in the shape of what are called niloms so that even the parambas come in for their share of cattle requirements for agricultural purposes. Now coming to the number of cattle even according to the statistics taken a long time ago there were

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something like 3,000 heads which at this time of the day must have increased up to 5,000. On a very modest estimate we can estimate 5,000 animals in these two villages. We have to remember in this connection that cattle form the most important wealth for our agricultural community for agricultural purposes. Again the Government themselves have in a way recognised the agricultural importance and of the importance of cattle requirements of these villages by reserving 358 acres as grazing grounds for the cattle of these two villages together. That shows the magnitude of the cattle problem of these two villages. Now these figures therefore form a sufficient argument to show that these two villages amply deserve the establishment of a veterinary dispensary there.

The Government in answer to a question, I asked in this Council, were pleased to say that they contemplated the establishment of one or two dispensaries in one or two important villages. Now my belief is that they would be pleased to regard these two villages together as one of the important centres that they would select for the establishment of the veterinary dispensary. Another relevant fact in this connection is the great frequency of cattle epidemics in these villages. On enquiry made personally I understand that almost every year there is a cattle epidemic attended with some sort of mortality. Some three years ago there was a very virulent epidemic attended with heavy mortality. Very many people were reduced helpless in their agricultural profession on account of this cattle epidemic. I have been myself able to collect information to the effect that certain individuals have lost 10 or 15 heads of cattle in that big cattle epidemic. I suppose that the Government will realise what it is to an agriculturist a loss of 15 heads of cattle bearing in mind that we in Malabar have no recourse to agricultural machinery for various agricultural operations. Cattle is the only motive power that our agriculturists have and Government would not do anything to safeguard the cattle interest of the agricultural community. They would be in a helpless condition as at present the facilities for veterinary aid provided for the State in general are very poor and particularly in respect of these two villages they are poorer still. Therefore my belief is that the Government would sympathetically consider the case of these two villages. In view of the great magnitude of their cattle interest the Government will be pleased to establish a veterinary hospital or at least a dispensary at any suitable place in that locality.

I had great diffidence in bringing this resolution to this Council because it related only to a local need. Nevertheless when there was a mass petition and when the Government reply did not promise much relief I thought I might get the support of

the Hon'ble Members of this House in pressing my request upon the kind attention of the Government. I believe I have placed facts and figures before this House to show that these two villages together forming such an important agricultural area of the State very amply deserve the establishment of an institution of this kind. The Government may plead want of funds but I think considering the importance of the place and also considering the large amount of agricultural revenue these people are every year paying to Government they would not grudge this poor pittance of a small sum which is to be spent on this account. In that belief I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the Hon'ble Members of this House.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I second it.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Sir, I support this resolution simply because I know that veterinary aid in Cochin State is not as sufficient as it should be. The Government seem not to understand the practical disability that stands in the way of the cultivators. Suppose there was a food disease prevalent among the cattle and a person wants to take the cattle six or 7 miles away to a dispensary. It will be next to impossible to do so. Perhaps the man somehow manages to take the cattle to the hospital; yet to keep the cattle there and to find fodder for it he will have to give up all his other works. It will be quite impossible. Further we have been requesting the Government to give veterinary aid to many parts of Cochin State and Government have been more or less in a way promising to give us. But as soon as the Government makes a promise they forget the promise they have made to us. I do not know why when lakhs of rupees are spent for the treatment of human beings these dumb creatures should not be accorded a little more money for treating them. It seems that we were wrong in not inviting Lord Irwin to these places where there are cattle so that we may have some lakhs of rupees donated for the treatment of these cattle. We in Cochin State only care to advertise our actions and not to see that the benefit really goes to the people. With these words I support this resolution.

Mr. Paul Mampilli.—Sir, I also support the resolution. As was said by the mover of the resolution the nearest place where there is a veterinary hospital is Irinjalakkuda which I believe is 10 or 12 miles away from these villages. When cattle are affected by disease it is not possible to take these cattle to such a distant place. If you will examine the register kept in the Veterinary Hospital at Irinjalakkuda, I do not think, you will find a single case from these villages taken to this hospital. That does not argue that there were no such cases in these

villages. That only shows that it has not been possible for these people to take their cattle to such a distant place. The mover of the resolution referred to the epidemics occurred in recent times which carried away a large number of cattle. Even then the people could not resort to the hospital and avail themselves of the benefits of the institution at Irinjalakkuda. I need not remind the Government that cattle are the greatest assets of the tillers of the soil. If there is not cattle they could do nothing and large areas of cultivable land will absolutely lie fallow. Therefore the possession of healthy and strong cattle is the greatest asset that the agriculturists can have in this country. When epidemics occur it is well known that the disease affects large number of cattle in any locality all at once. It will then be absolutely impossible for people to carry all these cattle to such distant places as Irinjalakkuda. Therefore I would request the Government to accede to the request contained in the resolution and establish a veterinary hospital somewhere near these villages.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—On a point of information. May I know whether there are itinerant inspectors?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—It is only proposed to be appointed.

Mr. M. A. Chakko.—I would also support this motion. Of course there is a veterinary hospital at the head-quarters of the taluk. That will not serve the agriculturists in the villages. Unless the Veterinary Inspector or Doctor goes to the villages during the time of epidemic and attend to the needs of the sick animals, it would be dangerous to take infected animals to regions which are uninfected. There is no way out of the difficulty except the veterinary Doctor goes to places where animals are infected. It is easier than providing veterinary dispensary in rural villages. The Government must find its way to render help to the poor agriculturists by giving veterinary dispensaries in important localities or by making some provision for itinerant veterinary doctors. On these grounds I support the motion.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Sir, two months back in Makaram meeting the Hon'ble Member who moved the present resolution moved that more veterinary hospitals should be started in the State. That resolution was passed by this Council and orders have not been passed on that. While passing orders on that Government will consider whether a hospital should be established in the villages the Hon'ble Member has referred to.

Mr. Joseph Pettah.—I do not press the resolution.
The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.